(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged to arrange for bank guarantee to NAFED for commercial purchase of chillies in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Centre to persuade NAFED to intervene in the market for purchase, to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, a request had been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to arrange for bank guarantee to NAFED to undertake procurement of chillies under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

(b) NAFED was directed to procure chillies as per the terms and conditions approved by this Department.

Motivating farmers for non-traditional Crops

†633. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to motivate the farmers for producing non-traditional crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to introduce such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to introduce such a scheme.

Expenditure on research and analysis in agriculture sector

†634. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to enhance the present expenditure on research and analysis in the agricultural sector, with a view to achieve four percent annual growth rate in that sector, during the coming years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of funds decided to be increased by Government?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Efforts are being made with the concerned department in the Government for larger allocation of funds for agriculturl research. The reply is awaited from the concerned Department.

Review of Milk Policy

635. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abut 5 per cent milk consumers face health hazards due to the bad quality of milk supplied;

(b) if so, whether this is due to policy failure or is attributable to other reasons of milk distribution, management techniques;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average yield of milk is below 1000 litres per animal per annum even after the white revolution; and

(d) whether country's milk policy needs a review so that the above shortcomings are adequately tackled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not received any such report.

(c) No, Sir. The average annual yield of a milch animal (in milk) has increased from about 858 litres per annum in 1985-86 to 1291 litres per annum in 1998-99.

(d) In view of answer (a) to (c) above, question does not arise.

Drought measures in A.P.

636. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks which have been affected by severe drought in Andhra Pradesh during the current calender year, with district-wise details thereof;

(b) the steps taken to make available food, drinking water and fodder in these areas by the Central Government and the State Government; and

(c) the details of other measures initiated by Government to combat the situation in these areas?